



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Raised Bill No. 6578

LCO No. 2998

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF CHILDREN IN MOTOR VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 14-100a of the general statutes is repealed and the following
2 is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) No new passenger motor vehicle may be sold or registered in
4 this state unless equipped with at least two sets of seat safety belts for
5 the front and rear seats of the motor vehicle, which belts comply with
6 the requirements of subsection (b) of this section. The anchorage unit
7 at the attachment point shall be of such construction, design and
8 strength as to support a loop load strength of not less than four
9 thousand pounds for each belt.

10 (b) No seat safety belt may be sold for use in connection with the
11 operation of a motor vehicle on any highway of this state unless it is so
12 constructed and installed as to have a loop strength through the
13 complete attachment of not less than four thousand pounds, and the
14 buckle or closing device shall be of such construction and design that
15 after it has received the aforesaid loop belt load it can be released with

16 one hand with a pull of less than forty-five pounds.

17 (c) (1) The operator of and any front seat passenger in a private
18 passenger motor vehicle, as defined in subsection (e) of section 38a-
19 363, fire fighting apparatus or a vanpool vehicle equipped with seat
20 safety belts complying with the provisions of the Code of Federal
21 Regulations, Title 49, Section 571.209, as amended from time to time,
22 shall wear such seat safety belt while the vehicle is being operated on
23 the highways of this state, except that a child under the age of [four]
24 five years shall be restrained as provided in subsection (d) of this
25 section. Each operator of such vehicle shall secure or cause to be
26 secured in a seat safety belt any passenger [four] five years of age or
27 older and under sixteen years of age.

28 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not
29 apply to any person whose physical disability or impairment would
30 prevent restraint in such safety belt, provided such person obtains a
31 written statement from a licensed physician containing reasons for
32 such person's inability to wear such safety belt and including
33 information concerning the nature and extent of such condition. Such
34 person shall carry the statement on his or her person or in the motor
35 vehicle at all times when it is being operated.

36 (3) As used in this subsection, "private passenger motor vehicle"
37 does not mean an authorized emergency vehicle, other than fire
38 fighting apparatus, responding to an emergency call or a motor vehicle
39 operated (A) by a rural letter carrier of the United States postal service
40 while performing [his] such carrier's official duties, or (B) by a person
41 engaged in the delivery of newspapers.

42 (4) Failure to wear a seat safety belt shall not be considered as
43 contributory negligence nor shall such failure be admissible evidence
44 in any civil action.

45 (5) On and after February 1, 1986, any person who violates the
46 provisions of this subsection shall have committed an infraction and

47 shall be fined fifteen dollars. Points may not be assessed against the
48 operator's license of any person convicted of such violation.

49 (d) Any person who transports a child under the age of [four years,
50 weighing less than forty pounds,] five years in a motor vehicle on the
51 highways of this state shall provide and require the child to use a child
52 restraint system approved pursuant to regulations adopted by the
53 Department of Motor Vehicles in accordance with the provisions of
54 chapter 54. [Any person who transports a child under the age of four
55 years, weighing forty or more pounds, in a motor vehicle on the
56 highways of this state shall either provide and require the child to use
57 an approved child restraint system or require the child to use a seat
58 safety belt.] As used in this subsection, "motor vehicle" does not mean
59 a bus having a tonnage rating of one ton or more. Failure to use a child
60 restraint system shall not be considered as contributory negligence nor
61 shall such failure be admissible evidence in any civil action. Any
62 person who violates the provisions of this subsection shall, for a first
63 violation, have committed an infraction; for a second violation, be
64 fined not more than one hundred ninety-nine dollars; and, for a third
65 or subsequent violation, be guilty of a class A misdemeanor. The
66 commissioner shall require any person who has committed a first or
67 second violation of the provisions of this subsection to attend a child
68 car seat safety course offered or approved by the Department of Motor
69 Vehicles. The commissioner may, after notice and an opportunity for a
70 hearing, suspend for a period of not more than two months the motor
71 vehicle operator's license of any person who fails to attend or
72 successfully complete the course.

73 (e) The commissioner shall administer the provisions of this section.

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Joint Favorable C/R

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